

**MECHANISM FOR EFFICIENT WEAROUT COUNTERS IN
DESTRUCTIVE READOUT MEMORY**

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ABSTRACT

A memory device having a wear out counter. The memory device includes at least one block of memory, that block having a metadata section associated with it. A number of bits in the metadata section are used to store the current state of a wear out counter. As the block is accessed, the counter is incremented, allowing a memory controller to level usage and to rectify any problems associated with wear out of that block. A method for incrementing the counter is also included.